

APR 07 2006

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP: 1712

32692

Customer Number

Patent
Case No.: 56471US010

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: CLEMENS, TIMOTHY J.

Application No.: 10/083,092 Group Art Unit: 1712

Confirmation No.: 8110

Filed: February 26, 2002 Examiner: Feely, Michael J.

Title: PROTECTIVE ARTICLES

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

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APR 07 2006


Signed by: Kathleen M. Murray

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the outstanding Office Action, dated February 7, 2006, in the above-identified application.

This Amendment is believed to be timely submitted. It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

An Amendment Transmittal Form for payment of additional claim fees is attached.

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Fax Cover Sheet

Date: 14 Apr 2006

To: Scott A. Bardell (Reg. No. 39,594)	From: Michael J. Feely
Application/Control Number: 10/083,092	Art Unit: 1712
Fax No.: 651-736-3833	Phone No.: 571-272-1086
Voice No.: 651-736-6935	Return Fax No.: 571-273-1086
Re: Case No. 56471US010	CC:
<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Review <input type="checkbox"/> For Comment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Reply <input type="checkbox"/> Per Your Request

Comments:
Mr. Bardell,

Attached is a proposed examiner's amendment for this case. I included both a marked up version (with comments explaining the changes) and a clean copy. Please review the proposal and let me know if it is acceptable. If you can get back to by Monday morning (April 17) that would be great.

Thanks,

Michael Feely

MICHAEL FEELY
EXAMINER
Number of pages 8 including this page

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Comments regarding the changes are provided with the marked up claims.

Marked Version

1. (Currently Amended) A protective article comprising: a backing comprising a terpolymer of tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene, and vinylidene fluoride; and a ~~heat, moisture, or UV light~~ curable thermoset adhesive layer on at least one surface of said backing; wherein the at least one surface is unetched; and wherein the curable thermoset adhesive layer that, which is non-tacky after cure, comprises a curing agent and a copolymer of (chloromethyl)oxirane and 4,4'-(1-methylethylidene)bisphenol copolymer; and wherein the protective article is bonded to a portion of a surface of a vehicle.

- “heat, moisture, or UV light” was removed for simplicity and consistency;
- “of said backing” was inserted to clarify the relationship between the layers;
- “a curing agent” was added because it appears to be a required element with the claims limited to an epoxy resin. This also takes care of an antecedent basis issue in claims 7 and 12.
- The description of the thermoset adhesive layer was reworded for improved clarity.

14. (Currently Amended) The protective article of claim 1, wherein the substrate vehicle surface is selected from the group consisting of painted surfaces, primed surfaces, metallic surfaces, ceramics, cured and un-cured composite surfaces, fluorinated polymer surfaces, plated surfaces, galvanized surfaces, and combinations thereof.

- “vehicle surface” replaces “substrate” to overcome an antecedent basis issue.

15. (Currently Amended) The protective article of claim 1, wherein the substrate vehicle surface comprises an aluminum surface.

- “vehicle surface” replaces “substrate” to overcome an antecedent basis issue.

16. (Currently Amended) The protective article of claim 1, wherein the substrate vehicle surface comprises a fluoropolymer that is not perfluorinated.

- “vehicle surface” replaces “substrate” to overcome an antecedent basis issue.

17. (Currently Amended) The protective article of claim 1, wherein the substrate vehicle surface comprises a cured resin.

- “vehicle surface” replaces “substrate” to overcome an antecedent basis issue.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an article having a fluorinated polymer surface comprising the steps of: contacting a surface of the article with a curable adhesive comprising a curing agent, an anti-corrosive additive, and a copolymer of (chloromethyl)oxirane and 4,4’-(1-methylethylidene)bisphenol ~~copolymer and an anti-corrosive additive~~; contacting a backing comprising a terpolymer of tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene, and vinylidene fluoride with the curable adhesive; and curing the curable adhesive.

- “a curing agent” was added because it appears to be a required element with the claims limited to an epoxy resin.

- The description of the thermoset adhesive layer was reworded for improved clarity.

31. (Currently Amended) A protective article comprising: a backing comprising a terpolymer of tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene, and vinylidene fluoride; and a ~~heat, moisture, or UV light~~ curable thermoset adhesive layer on at least one surface of said backing; wherein the at least one surface is unetched; and wherein the curable thermoset adhesive layer ~~that, which~~ is non-tacky after cure, comprises a curing agent, an anti-corrosive additive, and a copolymer of (chloromethyl)oxirane and 4,4'-(1-methylethylidene)bisphenol eopolymer and anti-corrosive additive.

- “heat, moisture, or UV light” was removed for simplicity and consistency;
- “of said backing” was inserted to clarify the relationship between the layers;
- “a curing agent” was added because it appears to be a required element with the claims limited to an epoxy resin.
- The description of the thermoset adhesive layer was reworded for improved clarity.

32. (Currently Amended) A protective article comprising: a backing comprising a terpolymer of tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene, and vinylidene fluoride ~~and, said backing~~ having a patterned structure; and a ~~heat, moisture, or UV light~~ curable thermoset adhesive layer on at least one surface of said backing; wherein the at least one surface is unetched; and wherein the curable thermoset adhesive layer ~~that, which~~ is non-

tacky after cure, comprises a curing agent and a copolymer of (chloromethyl)oxirane and 4,4'-(1-methylethylidene)bisphenol eopolymer.

- “heat, moisture, or UV light” was removed for simplicity and consistency;
- “of said backing” was inserted to clarify the relationship between the layers;
- “a curing agent” was added because it appears to be a required element with the claims limited to an epoxy resin.
- The description of the thermoset adhesive layer was reworded for improved clarity.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an article having a fluorinated polymer surface comprising the steps of: contacting a surface of the article with a curable adhesive comprising a curing agent and a copolymer of (chloromethyl)oxirane and 4,4'-(1-methylethylidene)bisphenol eopolymer; contacting a backing having a patterned structure comprising a terpolymer of tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene, and vinylidene fluoride with the curable adhesive; and curing the curable adhesive.

- “a curing agent” was added because it appears to be a required element with the claims limited to an epoxy resin.
- The description of the thermoset adhesive layer was reworded for improved clarity.